

Application No.: 09/421,971

Attorney Docket No.: SALK2350

Filing Date: October 20, 1999

(088802-5351)

Response after Final Office Action (mailed 11/19/02, Paper No. 15) faxed April 21, 2003

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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10 and 17.

Listing of claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A chimeric protein comprising:
a fusion of at least two functional protein units, wherein each functional protein unit comprises the dimerization domain of a member of the steroid/thyroid hormone nuclear receptor superfamily;
wherein said at least two functional protein units are fused into a single polypeptide molecule by (i) fusion of said protein units, or (ii) use of a linker interposed between said protein units; and
~~, and an optional linker interposed therebetween,~~
wherein ~~the at least two protein units form a functional entity, such that~~ said chimeric protein is capable of at least one function selected from the group consisting of DNA binding, ligand binding, transactivation and dimerization.
2. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 1 wherein **said chimeric protein forms the entity** is an endodimer.
3. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 1 wherein each protein unit comprises a ligand binding domain, an optional hinge domain, and an optional DNA binding domain.

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4. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 3 wherein said chimeric protein forms the functional entity is an endodimer.

5. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 1 wherein at least one dimerization domain member is non-mammalian.

6. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 5 wherein the at least one dimerization domain member is from an insect species.

7. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 1 wherein at least one functional protein unit comprises the dimerization domain of an ecdysone receptor.

8. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 7 wherein the dimerization domain of an ecdysone receptor comprises the dimerization domain of a *Drosophila* ecdysone receptor.

9. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 7 wherein the dimerization domain of an ecdysone receptor comprises the dimerization domain of a Lepidoptera ecdysone receptor.

10. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 7 wherein the dimerization domain of an ecdysone receptor comprises the dimerization domain of a *Bombyx* ecdysone receptor.

11. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 5 wherein at least one functional protein unit comprises the dimerization domain of the *ultraspiracle* protein.

12. (Cancelled).

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13. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 1 wherein at least one functional protein unit comprises the dimerization domain of the retinoid X receptor.

14. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 1 wherein the protein units are independently selected from the group consisting of glucocorticoid receptors, mineralocorticoid receptors, estrogen receptors, progesterone receptors, androgen receptors, Vitamin D3 receptors, retinoic acid receptors, retinoid X receptors, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors, thyroid hormone receptors, and steroid and xenobiotic receptors, farnesoid X receptor, pregnenolone X receptor, liver X receptor, and BXR.

15. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 1 wherein the linker contains from about 5 to about 245 amino acids.

16. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 15 wherein the linker contains from about 53 to about 125 amino acids.

17. (Currently amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 15 wherein the linker comprises one or more amino acid residues selected from the group consisting of glycine, proline, serine, alanine and threonine ~~residues~~.

18. (Previously amended) The chimeric protein according to claim 15 wherein the linker comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

19. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 3 wherein one or more protein units further comprise a C-terminal domain.

20. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 3 wherein the DNA binding domains of one or more protein units comprise 66 to 68 amino acids, including 9 cysteines.

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21. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 3 wherein the hinge domain of one or more protein units is the *Bombyx* hinge domain.

22. (Original) The chimeric protein according to claim 1 wherein one or more protein units further comprise an activation domain.

23.-60. (Cancelled).